

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 and 4 to 6 and add new Claim 9 as shown below.

The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A bus control method for a bus, which is provided with a switch having a plurality of master ports for connecting a plurality of masters and a plurality of slave ports for connecting a plurality of slaves, wherein the switch can connect each of the plurality of masters to an arbitrary one of the plurality of slaves, said method comprising:

~~an address phase~~ a read command transaction step in which a master initiates a read transaction with a switch request for connecting with a slave, the switch establishes a connection between the master and the slave, ~~and~~ the master issues an address and a command, and the switch releases the connection before read return data is issued from the slave; and

a ~~data phase~~ read data transaction step in which the slave issues a switch request for connecting with the master after the connection is released in the read command transaction step, the switch establishes a connection between the slave and the master independent from the connection made in the ~~address phase~~ read command transaction step, and the slave issues read return data, ~~the data phase being separated from the address phase;~~

wherein, before the read data phase transaction step is completed, ~~an address phase~~ a read command transaction step of a next read transaction can be issued.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) The bus control method according to claim

1, wherein

a start signal for initiating the read transaction is used also as a request signal for the switch request for connecting with the slave.

5. (Currently Amended) A bus system comprising:

a plurality of masters;

a plurality of slaves; and

a bus that is provided with a switch,

wherein the switch can connect each of the plurality of masters and an arbitrary one of the plurality of slaves in ~~an address phase~~ a read transaction which includes a read command transaction and ~~[[in]] a data phase read data transaction,~~

wherein, in the ~~address phase~~ read command transaction, a master initiates ~~[[a]] the read~~ transaction with a switch request for connecting with a slave, the switch establishes a connection between the master and the slave, ~~and~~ the master issues an address and a command, and the switch releases the connection before read return data is issued from the slave,

wherein, in the ~~data phase~~ read data transaction, the slave issues a switch request for connecting with the master after the connection is released in the read command

transaction, the switch establishes a connection between the slave and the master independent from the connection made in the ~~address phase~~ read command transaction, and the slave issues read return data, ~~the data phase being separated from the address phase~~, and

wherein, before the read data phase transaction step is completed, an ~~address phase~~ a read command transaction step of a next read transaction can be issued.

6. (Currently Amended) The bus control method according to claim 1, wherein a start signal for initiating data return in the read data transaction step ~~data phase~~ is used also as a request signal for the switch request for connecting with the master.

7. (Previously Presented) The bus control method according to claim 1, wherein the next transaction is a transaction from another master to the slave.

8. (Previously Presented) The bus control method according to claim 1, wherein the next transaction is a transaction from the master to another slave.

9. (New) The bus control method according to claim 1, wherein the master issues an identifier of the master with the address and the command to the slave in said read command transaction step, and the slave issues the identifier of the master with the read return data in said read data transaction step.